2. (**Amended**) The method of claim 1, wherein the biglycan comprises an amino acid sequence which is at least about 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 9 or a portion thereof.

3. (**Reiterated**) The method of claim 2, wherein the biglycan binds to alpha-dystroglycan.

4. (**Amended**) The method of claim 2, wherein the biglycan binds to alpha-sarcoglycan and/or gamma-sarcoglycan.

5. (**Reiterated**) The method of claim 4, wherein the biglycan further binds to alpha-dystroglycan.

6. (**Reiterated**) The method of claim 2, wherein the biglycan stimulates phosphorylation of alpha-sarcoglycan on a cell membrane.

7. (**Amended**) The method of claim 1, wherein the portion of biglycan comprises at least one repeat motif of 24 amino acids in the Leucine Rich Repeat (LRR) of SEQ ID NO: 9.

8. (**Amended**) The method of claim 7, wherein the biglycan comprises an amino acid sequence comprising one or more LRRs of SEQ ID NO: 9.

9. (**Reiterated**) The method of claim 1, wherein the biglycan comprises glycosaminoglycan (GAG) side chains.

10. (**Reiterated**) The method of claim 1, wherein the biglycan comprises an amino acid sequence which is at least about 90% identical to amino acids 38-365 of SEQ ID NO: 9.

11. (**Amended**) The method of claim 10, wherein the biglycan comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least about 95% identical to amino acids 38-365 of SEQ ID NO: 9.

12. (**Amended**) The method of claim 1, wherein the biglycan is encoded by a nucleic acid which hybridizes under stringent conditions of 6.0 x sodium chloride/sodium citrate (SSC) at about 45 °C to SEQ ID NO: 8.

13. (**Amended**) The method of claim 1, wherein the biglycan comprises the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 1-3.

14. (**Reiterated**) The method of claim 1, wherein the cell is a muscle cell.

The claims presented above incorporate changes as indicated by the marked-up versions below.

1. A method for stabilizing dystrophin-associated protein complexes (DAPCs) on the surface of a cell, comprising contacting the cell with an effective amount of biglycan, such that the DAPCs are stabilized, wherein said biglycan comprises a sequence at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO: 9, or a portion thereof, and possesses DAPC-stabilizing activity.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the biglycan comprises an amino acid sequence which is at least about 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 9 or a portion thereof [of biglycan and having at least one biological activity of biglycan].

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the biglycan binds to [a] alpha-sarcoglycan and/or gamma-sarcoglycan.